

Q II

Vivisection

Pamphlet

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Keen, William W. Dr. Snow and Vivisection

FROM THE
PUBLIC LEDGER



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MONDAY, FEB. 27, 1911

DR. SNOW AND VIVISECTION

**The London Physician's Opinions
Tested by His Recorded Testimony.**

To the Editor of Public Ledger:

Sir—The coming of Dr. Herbert Snow, of London, appears to be a notable event in anti-vivisection circles. It may not, therefore, be out of place to inquire who Doctor Snow is and what are his self-recorded opportunities and opinions.

Doctor Snow is not on the list of members of the British Medical Association for 1906 (the latest list I have). His name is not found in several of the ordinary biographical dictionaries accessible here, nor even in the British "Who's Who."

His opinions, however, have been put upon record by himself in the report of the Royal Commission on Vivisection and in his address in Philadelphia on Monday, February 20. He says (Vivisection Commission report, October to December, 1906, question 2313), "I am afraid I am getting very rusty now," and, again, "I am getting old" (question 2213). That his assertions are true is clear from the following facts:

In his Philadelphia address he is reported in the **PUBLIC LEDGER** (February 21, 1911) to have attacked the germ theory of diseases, and is quoted as saying that "Not in a single instance had science been able to prove that a germ was the real cause of a disease." Now, the germ theory is as well established as that the earth moves around the sun. If he has been correctly quoted, it necessarily follows that his medical views are mediaeval and not modern.

He never reads the *Journal of Physiology* (Q. 2225) His opinions, he says, are formed by the reports he sees in the papers, and when asked, "Do you mean scientific papers or lay

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journals?" he says, "Mostly lay journals" (Q. 2317, 2318). No wonder that he is "very rusty."

He never saw any experiments upon animals while a student (Q. 2218) and apparently none since. His only knowledge of mouse tumors is from literature; he never saw any (Q. 2184, 2185, 2186). He, however, ventures to pronounce these cancer experiments on animals "useless, cruel and misleading" (Q. 2222 and 2223). Yet he accepts as true the statement of the Cancer Research Fund that "a tumor even of greater weight than the mouse itself does not necessarily * * * impair the general health" (Q. 2108).

He actually declares that "the microscope should never be called in except to verify an opinion already formed or at least probable" (Q. 2252). What, then, is the use of the microscope?

He proposed that a cancer congress should be called (Q. 2210), but when one was held at Heidelberg and Frankfurt he "really knew nothing about it beyond the fact that there was a congress" (Q. 2214). He also proposed to the commission a number of fundamental changes in the British act regulating experiments, yet actually confessed "I have never read the act" (Q. 2343)!

When he was asked, "Do you find any fault with the present gentlemen who are licensed under the act?" he expressly declares, "I do not," thus holding blameless Horsley, Starling, Bayliss, Schafer, etc.

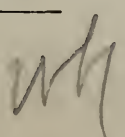
He is even actually in favor of vivisection, for he says that if a germ which might cause cancer were found, "I dare say that the question of experiments on animals might arise" (Q. 2288). He admits that under very exceptional conditions there should be such experiments, and when asked, "Do you mean painful or painless experiments or both?" replied, "Both" (Q. 2227, 2228)!

He goes even further and says he "would recommend their (i. e., special licenses for experiments on animals) being granted to any one who had any special line of research to pursue practically" (Q. 2414). In the case of a new drug, he says he "would rather try it on an animal first" than on a man, and "thinks that this is justifiable" (Q. 2322, 2323), yet in his Philadelphia address he declares (PUBLIC LEDGER report) that "Between them (men and animals) there is an enormous gulf that cannot be bridged by the efforts of the vivisectionists."

Any one wishing to consult the full text of his testimony can see it in the library of the College of Physicians, 22d street above Chestnut street.

W. W. KEEN.

Philadelphia, February 25, 1911.



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